

**DEE MARGO**  
MAYOR

**TOMMY GONZALEZ**  
CITY MANAGER



**CITY COUNCIL**  
PETER SVARZBEIN, DISTRICT 1  
ALEXSANDRA ANNELLO, DISTRICT 2  
CASSANDRA HERNANDEZ, DISTRICT 3  
SAM MORGAN, DISTRICT 4  
ISABEL SALCIDO, DISTRICT 5  
CLAUDIA L. RODRIGUEZ, DISTRICT 6  
HENRY RIVERA, DISTRICT 7  
CISSY LIZARRAGA, DISTRICT 8

**CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES**  
**300 N. CAMPBELL**  
**COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**March 16, 2020**  
**9:05 AM**

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The City Council met at the above place and date. Meeting was called to order at 9:40 a.m. Mayor Dee Margo present and presiding and the following Council Members answered roll call: Alexandra Annello, Cassandra Hernandez, Sam Morgan, Isabel Salcido, Claudia Rodriguez, Henry Rivera, and Cissy Lizarraga. Late arrival: Peter Svarzbein at 9:42 a.m. via videoconference under Texas Open Meetings Act 551.127 (Videoconference Call)  
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**AGENDA**

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**1. Information and update on COVID-19.**

Mr. Robert Resendes, Director of Public Health, introduced Dr. Hector Ocaranza, the local Health Authority, prior to presenting a PowerPoint presentation.

The presentation included information related to isolation, quarantines, the number of tests administered, the number of positive cases, contact tracing, and survival rate.

Mr. Resendes stressed the importance of containing the disease and encouraged people to stay home to help mitigate the spread. He added that the City is following the guidelines provided by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

Mr. Cary Westin, Senior Deputy City Manager, provided information related to a plan aimed at reducing presence in City facilities.

Dr. Ocaranza, briefed Council members on plans at local hospitals to address a surge in capacity and explained the difference between the COVID-19 virus and the seasonal flu. He stated that the virus could be transmitted by being in close proximity to an infected person, such as less than 6 feet. He also expressed his concern with an increase in cases and the importance of taking care of people at a higher risk of infection.

Mayor Margo and Representatives Svarzbein, Annello, Hernandez, Morgan, Rodriguez, and Rivera commented.

The following City staff members commented:

1. Ms. Karla Nieman, City Attorney
2. Mr. Tommy Gonzalez, City Manager (via videoconference)
3. Mr. Robert Cortinas, Chief Financial Officer
4. Mr. Ted Marquez, Deputy City Manager

**NO ACTION** was taken on this item.

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**2. Federally Funded Program Quarterly Update.**

Ms. Yvette Hernandez, Grant Funded Programs Director, presented a PowerPoint presentation (copy on file in the City Clerk's Office) and answered questions posed by Council members.

Representatives Annello, Hernandez and Morgan commented.

**NO ACTION** was taken on this item.

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**3. RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, the establishment of a comprehensive transportation system in the El Paso region is central to the success of the region and that there are currently deficiencies in the system that could be remedied through the development of certain major transportation projects; and

**WHEREAS**, the following proposed projects each have independent utility and would each improve the region's transportation system, but collectively, the development of these projects would work together to significantly improve mobility in the region as they each complement the other as provided in Exhibit "A"; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of El Paso recognizes that having multiple efficient and reliable transportation options available to the region's travelers is vital to the region's success and that the referenced projects in this resolution, represent a strategic approach to improve the flow of vehicles and enhance a vital east-west national corridor, thereby also providing safe and efficient congestion relief to area travelers; and

**WHEREAS**, the City desires to support the development of the referenced projects in Exhibit "A" of this resolution as part of the Regional Mobility Strategy, in furtherance of the City of El Paso's strategic goal to enhance and sustain El Paso's infrastructure network.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO:**

**THAT** the City of El Paso hereby support the projects in Exhibit "A"\* of this resolution, for the Regional Mobility Strategy to include the regions priorities as approved by Council on May 14, 2019 and is further supportive of the efforts of the various regional transportation entities that are seeking to develop such projects.

\* Exhibit available for review in the City Clerk's Office.

Ms. Yvette Hernandez, Grant Funded Programs Director, presented a PowerPoint presentation (copy on file in the City Clerk's Office) and answered questions posed by Council members.

Mr. Hugo Hernandez, Transportation Engineer Assistant with the Texas Department of Transportation and Mr. Eduardo Calvo, Metropolitan Planning Organization Director provided insight on the projects.

Mayor Margo and Representatives Annello, Hernandez, Morgan, Salcido, and Lizarraga commented.

The following members of the public commented:

1. Mr. Sito Negron
2. Mr. Robert Storch
3. Mr. Scott White
4. Mr. Steve Fischer
5. Mr. Joseph Nevarez
6. Mr. David Jerome
7. Mr. Stephen Vogelwedge

Motion made by Representative Hernandez, seconded by Representative Lizarraga, and carried to **APPROVE** the Resolution.

AYES: Representatives Svarzbein, Hernandez, Morgan, Salcido, Rodriguez, Rivera, and Lizarraga

NAYS: Representative Annello

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**4. Presentation and discussion on The Power of our Strategic Plan: El Paso Transformational Results with reports by the following departments:**

The following City staff members presented PowerPoint presentations related to their respective departments (copy on file in the City Clerk's Office):

**o Fire**

- Assistant Fire Chief Jonathan Killings

**o Municipal Court**

- Ms. Lilia Worrell, Municipal Court Clerk
- Ms. Anabelle Casas, Municipal Court Assistant Director
- Ms. Lorey Flores, Senior Juvenile Court Case Manager
- Mr. Robert Cortinas, Chief Financial Officer, presented on Workforce Initiatives

o **Police**

➤ Assistant Police Chief Patrick Maloney

Representatives Svarzbein, Annello, Hernandez, Morgan, Rivera, and Lizarraga commented.

The following City staff members commented and answered questions posed by Council members:

1. Mr. Cary Westin, Senior Deputy City Manager
2. Mr. Tommy Gonzalez, City Manager
3. Police Chief Greg Allen
4. Ms. Dionne Mack, Deputy City Manager

**NO ACTION** was taken on this item.

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**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion made by Representative Rivera, seconded by Representative Morgan, and unanimously carried that the City Council retire into **EXECUTIVE SESSION** at 1:56 p.m. pursuant to Section 3.5A of the El Paso City Charter and the Texas Government Code, Sections 551.071 - 551.089 to discuss the item:

Section 551.071 CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY

Section 551.072 DELIBERATION REGARDING REAL PROPERTY

Section 551.087 DELIBERATION REGARDING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEGOTIATIONS

AYES: Representatives Svarzbein, Annello, Hernandez, Morgan, Salcido, Rodriguez, Rivera, and Lizarraga

NAYS: None

Motion made by Representative Rivera, seconded by Representative Lizarraga, and unanimously carried to adjourn the Executive Session at 3:59 p.m. and **RECONVENE** the meeting of the City Council.

AYES: Representatives Svarzbein, Annello, Hernandez, Morgan, Salcido, Rodriguez, Rivera, and Lizarraga

NAYS: None

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**EX1. Ex Parte: City of El Paso; Supreme Court of Texas, Case #19-0022; Matter No. 17-1001-171.002 (551.071)**

**NO ACTION** was taken on this item.

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**EX2. Max Grossman v. City of El Paso; 8th Court of Appeals, Case #08-19-00272-CV; Matter No. 17-1001-171.001.001 (551.071)**

**NO ACTION** was taken on this item.

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**EX3. Celia Sanchez and Oscar Salas, statutory death beneficiaries of Erik Emmanuel Salas-Sanchez, Plaintiffs v. Mando Kenneth Gomez and the City of El Paso, Texas, Texas; Matter No. 17-1026-8443 (551.071)**

Motion made by Representative Lizarraga, seconded by Representative Rivera, and unanimously carried that outside counsel for the City of El Paso, Texas, in consultation with the City Attorney, be authorized settlement authority to resolve the case entitled Celia Sanchez and Oscar Salas, statutory death beneficiaries of Erik Emmanuel Salas-Sanchez, Plaintiffs v. Manda Kenneth Gomez and the City of El Paso, Texas, Defendants, pending in the US. District Court, Western District of Texas, under Cause No. 3: J 7-CV-00133-PRM.

The City Attorney, through outside counsel for the City of El Paso, Texas, is authorized to negotiate a settlement agreement and sign all necessary documents to effectuate this authority under Matter No. 17-1026-8443, as recommended by the City Attorney.

AYES: Representatives Svarzbein, Annello, Hernandez, Morgan, Salcido,  
Rodriguez, Rivera, and Lizarraga

NAYS: None

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**EX4. Economic Incentives for a Mixed-Use Development to be located in the City of El Paso. (18-1007-2339) (551.087) (551.071) (551.072)**

**NO ACTION** was taken on this item.

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**ADJOURN**

Motion made by Representative Rivera, seconded by Representative Morgan and unanimously carried to **ADJOURN** this meeting at 4:02 p.m.

AYES: Representatives Svarzbein, Annello, Hernandez, Morgan, Salcido, Rodriguez, Rivera,  
and Lizarraga

NAYS: None

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APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:

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Laura D. Prine, City Clerk